

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a remote machine, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving a request, at a remote facility configured to authorize said request,
to enable said a software option;

authorizing said ~~enablement~~ request;

delivering a first enabling signal, from said remote facility, to an intermediary in response to the authorization; and

delivering a second enabling signal, from said intermediary, to said a remote machine in response to said first enabling signal.
2. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said intermediary authenticates said enabling signal.
3. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein ~~the step of~~ delivering said second enabling signal further comprises ~~the step of~~ delivering said second enabling signal in response to said authenticating said first enabling signal.
4. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

establishing a machine specific configuration; and
generating said software option request in response to said machine specific configuration.

5. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 4, further comprising ~~the step of~~ delivering said second enabling signal to a controller located on said machine.

6. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 4, wherein said request is generated by a software program needing said software option.

7. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ delivering said second signal further comprises ~~the step of~~ delivering said second signal to a plurality of controllers located on said remote machine.

8. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~:
initiating a billing process in response to said authorization.

9. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 8, further comprising ~~the step of~~:
determining if one of an entitlement and a credit is available in response to said billing process initiation.

10. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ authorizing said enablement further comprises ~~the step of~~:

authorizing said enablement in response to an entitlement associated with said software option.

11. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said intermediary is a gateway network.

12. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ generating said request in response to a controller failing.

13. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 12, wherein said request includes a failed controller characteristic and a replacement controller characteristic.

14. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ authorizing said enablement further includes ~~the step of~~ authorizing said enablement for a time period.

15. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ receiving said request further comprises ~~the step of~~ receiving said request from a dealer associated with said machine.

16. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 15, wherein ~~the~~ step of authorizing said enablement further includes ~~the step of~~ authorizing said enablement by a manufacturer associated with said machine.

17. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ generating a request to enable said software option by a first machine.

18. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of~~ disabling said software option on a second machine in response to said enablement authorization.

19. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 18, wherein ~~the~~ step of delivering said first enabling signal further comprises ~~the step of~~ delivering said first enabling signal in response to said disabling of said software option.

20. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of~~ scheduling a delivery of said first enabling signal.

21. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 20, wherein ~~the~~ step of scheduling said delivery further comprises ~~the step of~~ scheduling said delivery in response to a priority of said request.

22. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 21, wherein ~~the step of scheduling said delivery further comprises the step of scheduling said delivery in response to a priority of said request and a priority associated with a current use of said software option.~~

23. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of~~ delivering a notification to said first machine, said notification including an indication of when said request may be fulfilled.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a remote machine, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- receiving a request to enable said a software option;
- authorizing said request;
- delivering an enabling signal to said a remote machine; and
- distributing at least a portion of said enabling signal to a plurality of controllers located on said remote machine.

25. (Previously presented) A method, as set forth in claim 24, wherein said software option is associated with said plurality of controllers.

26. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 25, wherein ~~the step of~~ delivering an enabling signal to said remote machine further comprises ~~the step of~~ delivering said enabling signal to a primary processor, and further wherein said

primary processor delivers a second enabling signal to said at least one other processor.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a replacement processor of a remote machine, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

identifying a failed processor associated with said a replacement processor;

receiving a request to enable said a software option;

authorizing said request in response to said identified failed processor; and

delivering an enabling signal to said replacement processor in response to said authorization.

28. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 27, wherein said request includes at least one of a failed controller identifier and a replacement controller identifier.

29. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 27, wherein ~~the step of~~ authorizing said request includes ~~the steps of:~~

authenticating said failed controller identifier and said replacement controller identifier, and confirming the requested software option was enabled on said failed controller.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an entitlement for an enabled software option located on a remote machine, comprising ~~the steps of~~:
receiving a request to disable ~~said~~ an enabled software option;
disabling said software option;
receiving a disabled characteristic associated with said software option; and
establishing an entitlement in response to said disabled characteristic.

31. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 30, wherein said entitlement is associated with said disabled software option.

32. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 30, further comprising ~~the step of~~ authenticating said disabled characteristic.

33. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 30, wherein ~~the step of~~ establishing an entitlement further comprises ~~the step of~~ establishing said entitlement in response to said authentication.

34. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 30, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:
receiving a request to enable a software option on a second machine; and

authorizing said request in response to said entitlement.

35. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 30, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

authenticating said request in response to a controller characteristic and a software option status; and

generating a disable signal in response to said authentication.

36 (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 35, wherein ~~the step of~~ disabling said software option further comprises ~~the step of~~ disabling said software option in response to said disable signal and a machine status.

37. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 36, wherein said machine status includes one of power up and power down.

38. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 36, wherein said machine status includes an implement status.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a remote machine, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving a request to enable ~~said a~~ software option;

enabling said software option during a trial period;

notifying a user with respect to an expiration of said trial period;

receiving a request to enable said software option in response to said notification;

authorizing said request; and

delivering an enabling signal to said a remote machine.

40. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 39, further comprising ~~the step of~~ generating a disable signal in response to said trial period expiration.

41. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 40, ~~wherein the step of generating a disable signal further comprises the step of~~ further comprising disabling said software option in response to said disable signal and a machine status.

42. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 41, wherein said machine status includes one of power up and off.

43. (Currently Amended) A method of disabling a software option located on a remote machine, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving a request to disable said a software option;

disabling said software option; and

receiving a disabled characteristic associated with said software option.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a remote customer machine, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving a request by a manufacturer from a dealer to enable ~~said~~ a software option;

authorizing said request in response to a dealer characteristic and a machine characteristic; and

delivering an enabling signal to ~~said~~ a remote customer machine.

45. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 44, wherein ~~the step of~~ delivering an enabling signal to said remote customer machine further comprises ~~the steps of~~:

delivering an enabling signal to said dealer in response to said authorization;

and

delivering said enabling signal to said remote customer machine in response to said dealer receipt.

46. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 44, wherein said dealer characteristic includes at least one of a service tool identifier, a service representative identifier, a dealer identifier, and a cross reference identifier of said dealer and said customer.

47. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 46, wherein said machine characteristic includes at least one of a software option identifier, a processor identifier, and a configuration identifier.

48. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 44, wherein said ~~step of~~ authorization further includes ~~the step of~~ authorizing said request in response to a machine characteristic, a dealer characteristic, and a user characteristic.

49. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a remote machine, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- establishing a machine specific configuration;
- generating a request to enable ~~said a~~ software option in response to said machine specific configuration, said request being authorized at a remote location;
- delivering an enabling signal, from said remote location, to an intermediary in response to the authorization;
- verifying said enabling signal by said intermediary; and
- receiving an said enabling signal, from said intermediary, at said a remote machine in response to said verification authorization, ~~said enabling signal being verified by an intermediary.~~

50. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a first machine, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- establishing a need for ~~said a~~ software option on ~~said a~~ first machine;

delivering a request to enable ~~for~~ said software option on said first machine to a second machine;

disabling said software option on said second machine in response to said request;

generating an enabling signal in response to said disablement; and

enabling said software option on said first machine in response to said enabling signal.

51. (Currently Amended) A system configured to enable a software option located on a remote machine, comprising:

a controller located on ~~said~~ a remote machine, said controller being configured to generate a request to enable ~~said~~ a software option;

a remote facility configured to receive said request, authorize said request and generate a first enabling signal; and

an intermediary configured to receive said first enabling signal from said remote facility , authenticate said first enabling signal, and responsively deliver a second enabling signal to said machine in response to said first enabling signal.